NGOs in Wastelands Development

4271. SHRI SARAT PATTNAYAK :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations have failed to achieve its objectives in Wastelands Development since the inception of the Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have sought participation of people for the success of various works undertaken under the integrated wasteland development project scheme;

(d) if so, the details of works undertaken during 1992-93 to 1995-96;

(e) the amount of grants released to voluntary agencies for wastelands development in Orissa during the last three years;

(f) whether irregularities have been committed, in implementing the programme; and

(g) if so, the action taken against the Non-Governmental Organisations so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. These Organisations have done good work in creating awareness amongst the people about the danger of further degradation of land and to bring the already degraded lands under afforestation by involving people in the process.

(b) In view of the (a) above, (b) does not arise.

(c) Under the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme, participation of the people is sought for their successful implementation through the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), which are District Rural Development Agencies or Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) selected by them.

(d) 136 project have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Rs. 164.51 crores have been released for implementation of these projects during 1992-93 to 1995-96.

(e) A total grant of Rs. 7.80 lakhs has been released to NGOs in the Orissa State during the last three years.

(f) and (g). No case of irregularity committed by any of the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the implementation of the projects sanctioned in their favour has come to notice from the State of Orissa. However, in two cases in view of low percentage of surviving plants, the NGOs have been directed to improve their performance during the next phase of the implementation of the programme.

Drinking Water in Urban Areas

4272. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken to provide drinking water to the urban poor and the slum dwellers; and

(b) the number of people died in urban areas due to waterborne diseases during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Water supply is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, design, implement and monitor water supply projects in urban areas including slums.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme has been launched in 1993-94 which provides for safe and adequate water supply facilities in towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 Census). It is funded by the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

Another Centrally sponsored Mega City scheme which provides Central assistance for the development of infrastructural facilities in the five mega cities, also has a component for water supply projects.

(b) No such statistics are being maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Construction by DDA

4273. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the news item published in, Hindu dated July 27, 1996, under the caption 'Profit making overriding principle for DDA';

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The news item contains, interalia, the following observations of Chief Minister of Delhi at the inaugural session of the Workshop on "Decentralised Approach for Urban Basic Services" :-

(i) The Planners and Policy makers of DDA have ignored the provision of urban services and utilised the land for the sole purpose of making profit.